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Officer

SAPC-12075  
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4 January 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director  
 SUBJECT : Per Diem at Base B

1. I know that you share my concern over the numerous recent cables we have received from [redacted] regarding what he has referred to as our "discriminatory administrative reduction of per diem" for officers and Government civilians there.

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2. The presently authorized maximum per diem for Turkey is \$8.00 per day for personnel in a TDY status. We are paying officers and Government civilians at Base B at the rate of \$6.00 per day, which rate was established prior to Detachment B's arrival in Adana (13 August 1956). Enlisted personnel of Detachment B are being paid the maximum amount of \$8.00 per day, but this reflects the significant fact that enlisted personnel are furnished meals, and for each meal twenty percent (20%) of their per diem is deducted. Even considering the charge of \$20.00 per month per trailer for propane being assessed by USAFE, according to [redacted] recent cable, and figuring the \$9.00 per month utility charge on each trailer, enlisted personnel still come to the end of each day well in the black, as follows:

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Enlisted Personnel

Daily rate .....	\$8.00
Deduction for meals furnished 60% ...	\$4.80
Daily charge for quarters .....	.50
Daily charge for utilities .....	.10
Daily charge for propane .....	.22
Net Deductions .....	<u>\$5.62</u>
Net Benefit .....	<u>5.62</u>
Net Benefit .....	<u>\$2.38</u>

3. Officer and Government civilian personnel fare almost identically, even assuming the greatest possible daily charges to them, based on living two people to a single trailer (some officers and civilians live three to a trailer, and their costs are proportionately less). This breakdown is as follows:

Officer and Government Civilians (two men to a trailer)

Daily rate (administrative reduction) .....	\$6.00
Daily cost of meals .....	\$2.25
Daily charge for quarters .....	.75
Daily charge for utilities .....	.15
Daily charge for services .....	.17
Daily charge for propane .....	.33

Net Deductions .....

Net Benefits .....

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3.65

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\$2.35

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4. Figuring daily costs for officers and Government civilians, living three men to a trailer, the breakdown is as follows:

Officers and Government Civilians (three men to a trailer)

Daily rate (administrative reduction) .....	\$6.00
Daily cost of meals .....	\$2.25
Daily charge for quarters .....	.50
Daily charge for utilities .....	.10
Daily charge for services .....	.17
Daily charge for propane .....	<u>.22</u>

Net Deductions .....	\$3.24	3.24
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Net Benefits.....	\$2.76
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5. [redacted] advises me that he knows of only one other flat assessment at the base, and that is \$1.00 per month in the mess hall for pay for KP services, and this amount is not collected from enlisted personnel. Prorated out among officers and Government civilians, this would reduce their daily benefit by slightly more than .03 per day, still leaving a comfortable balance. [redacted] states that there are no other assessments from any source whatever levied on trailers or their occupants, regardless of station.

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6. When examined over the period of a month, the net benefits to each group are interesting to compare:

a. Enlisted personnel .....	\$71.40
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25X1C b. Officers and [redacted] (2 to a trailer) .....	\$70.50
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c. Officers and [redacted] (3 to a trailer) .....	\$82.80
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I believe there is a possibility that [redacted] point that officers and Government civilians are benefiting less than enlisted personnel under the current per diem arrangements may stem from his examination of the comparative net monthly benefits of a and b above. I might point out, however, that all of our housing requirements for Base B were predicated on three men to a trailer (the trailers are used by SAC to house five men each for TDY personnel). The fact that [redacted] chose to house some of his senior personnel two to a trailer does make for better living conditions and for recognition of the time-honored gap between seniors and juniors in the service, but I do not think that two men to a trailer is based on grounds of health and sanitation, or [redacted] would see to it that all of his detachment personnel were so apportioned. As a matter of side interest, personnel at [redacted] are living four men to a trailer, and one that is considerably smaller and less well appointed.

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7. In summary, I should like to point out one or two very basic facts of law regarding the purposes of a per diem allowance to service and Government civilian personnel. Per diem is designed to cover those expenses which

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a TDY traveler incurs in conducting Government business. It is not designed to enable the traveler to make a daily profit as an incentive to get him to take a particular assignment. As far as the business of the appropriateness of an administrative reduction in the maximum amount is concerned, I should like to insert a brief quote from the Standardized Government Travel Regulations, Paragraph 6, Section 2, "Rates of Per Diem":

"The per diem allowance provided in these Regulations represents the maximum allowable, not the minimum. It is the responsibility of each department and establishment to see that travel orders authorize only such per diem allowances as are justified by the circumstances affecting the travel. To this end, care should be exercised to prevent the fixing of a per diem allowance in excess of that required to meet the necessary and authorized expenses."

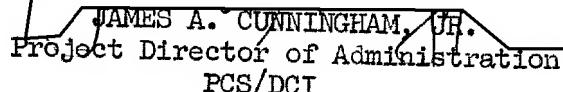
Even the Joint Travel Regulations (Paragraph 4207Z) recognizes the same matter, by saying:

"The Secretary of the Department concerned (in the case of our Air Force personnel, this would mean the DCI) may authorize no per diem, or rates of per diem in lesser amounts than those indicated in this table, or may waive or extend the time limitation ..."

8. Finally, I feel that our position on the amount of per diem being paid each group at Base B is not only defensible but represents the desirable course of action. To restore officer and Government civilians to a flat maximum per diem of \$8.00 would mean that officers and Government civilians would net monthly benefits of \$131.50 and \$142.50 respectively, using the scales set forth in Paragraph 6, a and b, of this memorandum. This would be roughly twice the benefit accruing to the enlisted personnel each month, and would, I believe, cause friction between one group and another in addition to being easily challenged in any administrative review of AQUATONE affairs. Therefore, I strongly urge you to approve retention of the administrative reduction that [redacted] wishes to set aside. To do otherwise, especially in the face of a possible reduction in trailer rental, utility and service charges in USAFE, would be an unwise course of action, in my view.

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